



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
43rd session  
Agenda item 16

MEPC 43/16  
31 March 1999  
Original: ENGLISH

## TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

### Technical Co-operation Sub-Programme for the Protection of the Marine Environment

#### Status Report on the Programme Activities

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This paper provides information on the status of the current project activities related to the protection of the marine environment.
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 10
<i>Related documents:</i>	Information on this programme has been presented earlier in the MEPC 41/15, MEPC 41/INF. 17, MEPC 41/INF.18, and MEPC 41/INF.19

1 At its forty first session, the Committee had before it documents MEPC 41/15, MEPC 41/INF.17, MEPC 41/INF.18 and MEPC 41/INF.19 which provided a status report prepared by the Secretariat on the progress of activities and relevant information on ongoing and hard pipeline projects, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean (REMPEC) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre-Caribbean (REMPEITC-Caribbean).

2 Since the Committee's forty-first session, a number of project activities have been implemented. The following is an update on the technical co-operation activities that have taken place during the interim period in the different geographical regions. More detailed information on the IMO/Industry Global Initiative for the national and regional implementation of the OPRC Convention is found in document MEPC 43/16/1. Based on the key objectives established through IMO's substantive Committees and the corresponding technical assistance priorities of the developing countries and donors, the Technical Co-operation Committee approved the technical co-operation policies and strategy for 2000-2001 as contained in document TC 45/9. The thematic priorities for marine environment and the corresponding sub-programme in the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) is found in MEPC 43/16/2. This information, which pertains to the marine environment component of the ITCP for 2000-2001 as contained in TC 46/3, relates to thematic priorities for 2000-2001, the regional programmes and the Organization's technical co-operation objectives in the field of marine environment protection as established by the Marine Environment Protection Committee. Information on the activities of the regional response centres and agreements will also be presented in the form of information papers.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

### 3 AFRICA

3.1 As a follow-up to the Cape Town Meeting, a series of joint IMO/Industry initiatives were conducted in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania.

3.1.1 **Angola:** As a follow up to the first workshop organized in October 1997, IMO assisted in the finalization of the draft National Contingency Plan which has been presented to the National Oil Spill Planning Committee at a workshop held during the week from 13 to 17 July 1998, in conjunction with an industry - driven EXPO with focus on protection of the environment.

3.1.2 **Côte d'Ivoire:** Assistance was provided by IMO for the finalization of their draft national oil spill contingency plan at a workshop held during the period from 8 to 11 February 1999. The International Petroleum Industry Environment Conservation Association (IPIECA), and the local oil industry assisted the Authorities in the organizing of an exercise on the last day of the workshop. The IOPC Fund Secretariat also participated in the workshop.

3.1.3 **Namibia:** As a follow up to the first workshop organized in November 1997, IMO fielded another mission to Winhoek, Namibia (20-21 July 1998) to give advice on and to evaluate the draft Namibian National Plan and draft national legislation for the implementation of a number of IMO conventions.

3.1.4 The Authorities in **Mauritania** organized a workshop entitled "*The workshop on the legal framework in the field of marine environment and marine pollution prevention*", in Nouakchott, during the period from 9 to 11 November 1998. The objective of the workshop was to develop consensus among stakeholders on the draft marine environment code which was prepared with IMO's assistance, review the problems faced by Mauritania in its attempt to protect its marine environment and identify the steps to be taken to address those. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Economy through the Department of Merchant Marine, organized the workshop with the co-operation of the local industry and the participation of the relevant Government Departments, representatives of donor agencies, including UNDP and a number of interested NGOs. The FUND Secretariat and IPIECA were represented at the workshop. The workshop was part of a series the Authorities envisage to organize and aimed at the improvement of the national capacities in marine pollution prevention and management through effective implementation of the relevant international conventions.

The second workshop took place from 15 to 17 February 1999. Its objective was to provide the Maritime Authorities with the necessary tools for the development of a draft oil spill contingency plan in co-operation with the local oil industry.

3.1.5 **Mozambique:** Mozambique hosted a workshop during the period from 4 to 7 May 1998. A major decision stemming from the workshop is the official designation of the National Maritime Safety Agency (SAFMAR) to coordinate the development and finalization of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan before end of 1998, or soon after.

3.1.6 **Ghana:** A second workshop on environmental sensitivity mapping has been organized in Ghana from 22 June to 3 July 1998. Achievements included: (1) a set of agreed symbols for the national maps; (2) provisional/interim maps for the whole of the sea coast (a total of 49 maps) and most of the Lake Volta coast (61 maps for the west side and 34 maps for the east side).

3.1.7 **Tanzania:** A two-week workshop (25 May - 5 June 1998) on environment sensitivity mapping made it possible to achieve the following: (1) consensus on a provisional marine shoreline sensitivity index for Tanzania; and (2) a provisional sensitivity map produced for the Dar-es-Salaam area (which is at particular risk from oil spills), using geographical information system (GIS).

### 3.1.8 The Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (**WACAF Convention**)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in its quest to revive the Nairobi and Abidjan (WACAF) Conventions, has established a working group of legal and technical experts. IMO is involved in this process, especially for the subject areas dealing with sea-based pollution and dumping. IMO has already taken a number of steps towards IMO/UNEP harmonized actions in support of the Abidjan Convention. Consultations with the relevant Governments were carried out during a number of IMO meetings and a mission in a number of countries of the West and Central Africa region in May 1998. The outcome of such consultations is a consensus on and confirmation of the need for a high level meeting/conference to be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in co-operation with the WACAF Regional Co-ordinating Unit (WACAF/RCU) and with the participation of all interested parties, including the industry. The objective of such a conference will be to:

- identify possible elements/activities necessary for the elaboration of regional strategies with a view to the development and implementation of national and regional oil spill contingency planning;
- assess the national and regional requirements for pollution preparedness and response, including development of national legislation where necessary, training and manpower development; and
- agree on the above and any necessary amendments to the WACAF Protocol which is the legal basis for a regional contingency plan.

The Conference is scheduled to take place in Abidjan during the second half of 1999, as an integral part of the revitalization process being undertaken in co-operation with UNEP and which concerns both regional conventions.

### 3.2 Other Global Initiative related activities:

3.2.1 *The Western Indian Ocean Island countries Oil Spill Contingency Planning project:* A joint World Bank/IMO/Industry mission to **Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles** resulted in the development of a project document, the preparatory activities of which are already being implemented, following the processing by the World Bank of the GEF-funded Project Preparation Grant. The project has also been approved by the World Bank Board of Directors. IPIECA is involved in the project through their in-kind contribution to specific activities. IMO is not part of the project but will continue to support the countries of the region in developing individually and jointly their contingency plans.

3.2.2 *The International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC - 99):* The 16th Biennial International Conference on the Prevention, Behaviour, Control and Cleanup of Oil Spills took place in Seattle, U.S.A, from 8 to 11 March 1999. The Conference theme for 1999 read: "Beyond 2000: Balancing Perspectives". As in the past, IMO jointly co-sponsored the Conference with IPIECA, The United States Coast Guard, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the American Petroleum Institute. Under the IMO/Industry Global Initiative, and with a view to securing that the Conference was a truly international event, funding was made available to sponsor five participants from Africa, Eastern Europe, Arab States and the Mediterranean, South East Asia, and Wider Caribbean regions.

## 4 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### 4.1 **RAS/97/G34** - GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas.

This is a pilot project designed to focus on developing a number of innovative approaches for preventing and managing pollution in marine and coastal areas, including the application of integrated coastal management (ICM) at pilot sites in Batangas Bay (Philippines) and Xiamen (China). It adopted a pollution risk assessment/risk management strategy and a management framework for dealing with marine pollution arising from both land and sea-based sources (including transboundary issues) in the Straits of Malacca. It integrated environmental monitoring into the local management framework, harmonized legislative conflicts, explored sustainable financing mechanisms and involved stakeholders, especially the private sector and the local communities, in the development and execution of site-specific or issue-related action plans. Through networking of environmental legal personnel, the project was able to create better awareness of the benefits, rights and obligations of international conventions.

All countries in the region have initiated efforts to develop coastal and marine environmental management programmes, supported by some type of legal and regulatory framework to control or prevent pollution. Moreover, most countries have formulated a response to the Agenda 21 recommendations (particularly Chapter 17) that emerged from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), or "Earth Summit" in 1992. Their responses, in the form of National Agendas for action, by and large, follow the spirit of the Agenda 21, and are tailored to the priorities and context of each nation. Each of these responses address issues and concerns in coastal and marine environment in varying degrees. The countries have a better understanding of sustainable development in general, but have yet to develop a full appreciation of the specific problems in the context of coastal and marine tropical ecosystems and how to implement appropriate interventions. This expressed need has led to the formulation of a project which will focus on the protection and management of the coastal and marine environment of the East Asian Seas region through the sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources and through intergovernmental, interagency and intersectoral partnership for improved quality of life in the East Asian Seas region.

### 4.2 **RAS/97/306: Effective Marine Pollution Prevention and Safety Measures for Shipping Activities in the Malacca Straits**

4.2.1 Under this TC project, a regional workshop was jointly organized by the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas and the Japan Hydrographic Department, the Maritime Safety Agency, Japan and supported by the Japan Association of Marine Safety. The purpose of the workshop which was held from 29 to 30 October 1998 in Singapore, was to build awareness and support among the maritime and environmental resource management authorities of the three littoral States of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore with regard to:

- (a) potential applications and benefits of an innovative technological package comprised of precision navigation and environmental management capabilities, known as the Marine Electronic Highway; and
- (b) a GEF/PDF Block B Grant request for a technical and economic feasibility study for the development of a Regional Marine Electronic Highway in the East Asian Seas with an initial demonstration project in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

4.2.2 The workshop supported the concept of the Marine Electronic Highway and agreed that its implementation should first be demonstrated in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Recognizing the

effectiveness of electronic navigational charts in promoting maritime safety and protection of the marine environment, the workshop reached consensus on the objectives of the GEF/PDF bloc B proposal, and reached agreement to forward the project proposal to GEF Focal Points in the participating countries for endorsement and submission to GEF.

#### **4.3 RAS/97/309 and RAS/97/310**

4.3.1 These two projects are part of the ITCP projects for the South Pacific region that have been transferred to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for implementation under an IMO/SPREP Memorandum of Understanding. The first workshop under project RAS/97/309 has been successfully organized in Fuji, 30 November - 4 December 1998 with active IMO involvement and participation from the Australian Maritime Safety Administration and the oil industry. A substantial in-kind contribution from the participating Governments and the local industry has also been recorded.

4.3.2 Through the IMO/SPREP Memorandum of Understanding, the promotion of the regional implementation of the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) is envisaged by IMO through SPREP, which will implement the regional programme activities in the ITCP, regarding marine pollution prevention and response for the Pacific Islands region through the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL). PACPOL is a comprehensive initiative by SPREP to address all forms of shipping-related pollution throughout the Pacific Islands region. Nearly all the activities concerning prevention and control of marine pollution in the ITCP's regional programme for the South Pacific have been incorporated in this new programme.

#### **4.4 IMO/SINGAPORE Third Country Training Programme (TCTP)**

In September 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IMO and the Government of Singapore was signed. This MOU on a Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) is designed primarily for training courses for Asia, Pacific and Africa regions and will start its activities in 1999. A Programme of Activities has been agreed for implementation in 1999 and include courses to be organized usually in Singapore. Singapore will cover expenses pertaining to their experts and training facilities, but the cost for outside experts and outside participants will be shared equally by Singapore and IMO. It is also envisaged that Singaporean experts participate in IMO organized training courses in third world countries at no cost to IMO.

### **5 THE CARIBBEAN**

#### **5.1 Follow-up to WCISW**

5.1.1 In order to move from the preparatory activities carried out under the Wider Caribbean Initiative on Ship-Generated Waste (WCISW) and by REMPEITC-Carib, IMO is convening a donors forum to seek support for the implementation phase of MARPOL 73/78, Port State Control (PSC) and OPRC 90 in the Wider Caribbean Region. The forum initially scheduled to take place in Santo Domingo, 22-25 September 1998 has been rescheduled for the period from 16-18 February 1999.

5.1.2 In preparation for the implementation of OPRC Model Courses in the Caribbean, course material has been provided to REMPEITC-Carib. The first course is planned for April/May 1999.

5.1.3 Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Mapping for Oil Spill Response for the Island States of the Wider Caribbean: This project was approved in 1997 and, at the request of the recipient countries the planned training course on ESI mapping will now be held in 1999. All preparatory work has now been carried out to analyse the region's current expertise on the subject.

## 6 CIS/EASTERN EUROPE

6.1 Under project RER/97/405, a Regional Workshop on Implementation of shipping-related activities of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was held in Varna, Bulgaria 24-26 November 1998. A base document for the workshop has been prepared with the assistance of a consultant. The objective of the workshop was to agree on a work plan for the implementation of the shipping-related activities of the SAP, and this was achieved.

## 7 GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

7.1 Under project GLO/97/641-Control and Management of Ballast Water, a Steering Committee meeting was held in Cape Town on 29 and 30 July 1998. The objective of the meeting was to review a US\$ 7.5 million project to be submitted to GEF for funding. A follow-up meeting was held in Washington in October 1998. At its bilateral meeting held on 18 March 1999, the GEF Secretariat approved the submission of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Ballast Water Project to the GEF Council.

## 8 TRAINING COURSES

### 8.1 IMO OPRC Model Training Courses

Level 3	Manama, Bahrain	1-4 March 1998
Level 3	Dalian, China	23-25 June 1998
Level 3	Riga, Latvia	24-25 November 1998
Level 3	Almaty, Kazakhstan	10-12 November 1998

### 8.2 Other

8.2.1 In Gothenburg, Sweden - SIDA organized courses on oil spill contingency planning and MARPOL for a number of developing countries (15-16 April 1998).

8.2.2 In Georgia - IMO covered topics pertaining to oil spill contingency planning and port reception facilities during a meeting organized under a World Bank project on coastal zone management (19 to 29 May 1998).

8.2.3 IMO also prepared, contributed and participated in the following workshops:

- (a) IMO/Australia regional workshop "working together in preventing sea-based pollution in the Asia/Pacific region" - April 1998 (**RAS/98/316**);
- (b) WMO/IMO workshop on meteorological support for marine pollution emergencies, Townsville, Australia - July 1998. The workshop, together with a seminar, took place in Townsville, Australia from 13 to 17 July 1998 under the auspices of WMO. These so-called metocean workshop and seminar addressed the marine meteorological support for marine pollution emergency response (MPRESS) operations on the high seas. They were attended by 59 participants from 24 countries and were in their majority from meteorological services.

## 9 THE LONDON CONVENTION RELATED ACTIVITIES

9.1 *The IMO/UNEP/IOC Workshop on Waste Management and Marine Pollution Prevention in Southern and Eastern Africa* was held in Cape Town (South Africa) from 1-4 April 1998 and was organized by IMO in close collaboration with the Government of South Africa, while UNEP and IOC acted as co-sponsors. The Workshop, organized under the London Convention Technical Co-operation and Assistance Programme, was funded by the Governments of Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States and by UNEP. Thirty-seven participants representing the following States participated at the Workshop: Angola, Comoros, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, France (La Reunion), Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, , Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project was successfully completed, with a positive balance of funds (US\$ 26,000) to be used for other LC-TC projects approved by Contracting Parties.

### 9.2 Development of National Profiles on Waste Management and Marine Pollution Prevention (TO30 - RAF/96/803)

9.2.1 **Namibia:** A National Briefing Session was held on 28 July 1998 in Windhoek to start the development of the National Profile for Namibia which was attended by 23 participants. Presentations were given by representatives of the Namibian Government, municipalities, industry and the University of Namibia focusing on the priorities in waste management in Namibia and on issues related to collection and evaluation of reliable data for the development of the National Profile. IMO was represented by a consultant contracted for the project. The Draft National Profile is expected for review and comments by last week of January 1999. The final draft National Profile for review and comments is expected by last week of February 1999.

9.2.2 **Seychelles and Comoros:** National Briefing Sessions took place in Seychelles and comments on draft national profile have been provided. The final draft is awaited from the Government for review and comments. The completion of a National Profile for Comoros has been cancelled under this project. A plan is being developed to complete this profile as a separate project.

9.2.3 **Madagascar:** Madagascar was the fourth country identified under this project for which a National Profile would be developed. In spite of several efforts by IMO to seek the commitment of the Madagascan authorities for execution of this project, these efforts have unfortunately been fruitless.

### Action requested of the Committee

10 The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided and to comment as appropriate.